

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Akaka	Gillibrand	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Hagan	Pryor
Bayh	Harkin	Reed
Begich	Inouye	Reid
Bingaman	Johnson	Sanders
Brown (OH)	Kaufman	Schumer
Burr	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kohl	Specter
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Lautenberg	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Conrad	Levin	Udall (NM)
Dodd	Lieberman	Warner
Durbin	Lincoln	Webb
Feingold	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	
Franken	Nelson (NE)	

NAYS—39

Barrasso	Cornyn	McCain
Bennet	DeMint	McConnell
Bennett	Ensign	Menendez
Bond	Enzi	Merkley
Brown (MA)	Graham	Risch
Brownback	Grassley	Roberts
Bunning	Gregg	Sessions
Burr	Hatch	Shelby
Chambliss	Inhofe	Snowe
Coburn	Johanns	Thune
Cochran	Kyl	Vitter
Collins	LeMieux	Voinovich
Corker	Lugar	Wyden

NOT VOTING—12

Alexander	Dorgan	Murkowski
Boxer	Hutchison	Murray
Byrd	Isakson	Rockefeller
Crapo	Kerry	Wicker

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 257) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 257

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Wednesday, March 24, 2010, through Monday, March 29, 2010, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, March 25, 2010, through Wednesday, March 31, 2010, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, April 12, 2010, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONTINUING EXTENSION ACT OF 2010—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have spoken with Senator COBURN, and he and I reached an agreement about which I will propound a unanimous consent request.

I ask unanimous consent that the time between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. be evenly divided between his side and our side in 15-minute segments; the first 15-minute segment will be for our side, the Democratic side, for those Members wishing to speak in favor of the 30-day extension; the next 30 minutes to Senator COBURN on the Republican side for those sharing his position; and the last 15 minutes back to our side until we reach the end of this debate at 9:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Then at 9:30 p.m., there may be some procedural issues unrelated to the substantive issue which we will be discussing between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., but that has to be worked out between both sides.

To initiate the debate on this side, I yield to the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. REED, for such time as he may consume within the 15-minute segment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on April 5, the extension that was recently voted for extended unemployment compensation benefits will expire. We need to at least provide for a temporary extension while we await the resolution of a much broader piece of legislation that is in the House today which would provide for an extension of unemployment benefits from today until the end of the calendar year, as well as FMAP payments to the States and other provisions.

This is absolutely critical. In my home State of Rhode Island, we have basically a 13-percent unemployment rate—12.7 percent. We have a record number of long-term unemployed people. This is not a situation, as in the past, where there was a temporary labor crisis. This has been going on in Rhode Island for almost 2 years or more, and people have reached the end of their resources and the end of their patience. For many, the only thing that is sustaining them—and not particularly well—is the fact they are still getting some unemployment benefits.

So we have to move very aggressively to provide a solution. We have never, in the last several decades—reaching back at least as far as the 1980s—denied extended unemployment benefits as long as the unemployment rate nationally was at least 7.4 percent. It is 10 percent, and in many States it is higher than that—Rhode Island being one of those States. So this would break tradition in terms of disrupting, interrupting, preventing extended benefits at a time when we have 10 percent unemployment.

We have persistently seen this, accurately and realistically, as an emergency—an emergency that allows us to provide funding without offsets. That is something that I think still is compelling. This is an emergency. Perhaps one of the ironies that will take place on this floor in the next several weeks is that we will call up a supplemental budget from the Department of Defense which, as I understand, will not be offset totally. One of the ironies is that we will be providing benefits—because part of our strategy in Afghanistan and Iraq is civic engagement—we will be providing employment opportunities and investment in infrastructure for Afghans and Iraqis without offset, which is my understanding at the moment. The irony, of course, is that for our own citizens we are claiming: No, we can't do that.

The other side has accumulated, under the Bush administration, a huge debt. In fact, in the term of the Bush administration, the national debt grew astronomically. Part of it was because repeatedly the Republican side refused to provide offsets to the funding for the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, and Medicare Part D, which was an entitlement payment for seniors in terms of their drug prescriptions. They thought that paying for things was an undue constraint on their plans. But now that we are in a crisis that affects Americans, there is the insistence during this emergency of paying for it, which contradicts practice and contradicts the real needs out there.

One final point. We are now beginning to see some very limited progress on the employment front. This week's report about jobs caused a very positive reaction in the marketplace because the number of first-time claimants for unemployment compensation dropped much further than they thought. That suggests we are beginning to bottom out. There are other reports that suggest we will see some job growth beginning. That is because of the stimulus efforts we have undertaken today and in the past.

Part of that stimulus effort has been unemployment compensation insurance. For every dollar we invest in unemployment compensation, there is \$1.90 growth in economic activity. That is the result of studies over many years. So when we don't invest in these types of programs, we are not only denying sustenance to many families, we are also not providing the kind of economic stimulus that the country needs to move forward.

So for all those reasons and more, I hope we can move, in the course of this evening or tomorrow, to adopt a measure that will allow us to continue the funding for unemployment compensation.

With that, I thank the Senator from Illinois, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Michigan.